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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

009299

FROM: BETSY PALMER (BP)

SUBJECT: FBI FILE REVIEW - ROGELIO CISNEROS DIAZ

DATE: June 19, 1975

On June 13 and 15, 1978, I reviewed the files at the FBI titled Rogelio Cisneros Diaz, Miscellaneous References. The contents of the two files were as follows.

Volume I of II

1. #105-114543-162, Section 5, Serials 141-166

#162 - Report dated 6/26/64

From: SA John L. Spurgers, Jr., San Juan

Cover Page D - Local JURE coordinator in Atlanta is Angel Santos Bush of Decatur, Georgia - 2115 Myrtle Lane. INS records indicate he was formerly connected with Fair Play for Cuba (FPCC) in New York and is the subject of BUfile 97-4284. Discrete inquiry is being made to determine his residence for possible testimony before a Federal Grand Jury looking into activities of FPCC.

2. #105-114543 - Serial 266
March 7, 1966
Report of James J. O'Connor, Miami
Subject: JURE

Manuel Varela interviewed states CISNEROS probably working for CIA (Miami) and is associated with an engineering firm of Howard Post in Miami Springs. Cisneros has recently travelled to the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Costa Rica, supposedly on engineering matters, although he does not have an engineering background.

3. #105-114543-159, Section 5, Serial 159
Memo dated 6/19/64 to Director from SAC, New York

Andrew St. George gives information regarding his arrest with Manuel Ray in the Bahamas on an aborted infiltration of Cuba, and requests that his identity be withheld. St. George identifies the individual who came from Miami to Nassau to pay fines for those arrested as Jack Reed.

4. State Department deletion - 1 page - dated 12/29/67
"Detention of Rogelio Cisneros Diaz"

5. #105-95804-7
May 31, 1961
Report from Miami by John E. McHugh
Subject: Jose Luis Divino

Page 3 - Cisneros advised he was a former Castro supporter and head of the 26th of July Movement in Camaguey Province. He terminated this relationship in December 1958 because he believed Che Guevara was a Communist. In October 1959, Cisneros began to actively oppose the government of Fidel Castro and joined the MRR. He became dissatisfied with this group and in August 1960, joined MRP and was made Chief of Underground Activities. The MRP helped him escape Cuba when it became known that his name was on a list of active conspirators against Castro.

Volume II of II

1. #2-1693-39 Section 2, Serials 32-73
October 4, 1961
Report of Robert James Dwyer, Miami
Subject: Interpen - for period of 7/22 - 9/21/61
Informant says Hemming visited Cisneros in July 1961 to obtain support/and or offer his services. Cisneros is now Coordinating General of MRP. Cisneros said he would help Hemming (Gerry Patrick) work out a plan to leave the United States and establish a training camp but Hemming is not sure Cisneros is sincere.
2. #105-92704-52
August 21, 1961
Re: MRP

Ignacio Mendoza de la Torre advised he was the new Coordinator General of MRP in Miami and he has decided to cooperate with the CRC, headed by Dr. Jose Miro Cardona. He said Joaquin Godoy y Solis and Rogelio Cisneros, former assistant to Manuel Ray, are also committee members of MRP.

3. #105-92704-58 Section 2, Serials 39-73
Airtel to Director from Miami
September 15, 1961
Subject: MRP

Ignacio Mendoza met in Washington, D. C. with Mr. Richard Goodwin at the White House on 8/22/61. Goodwin advised him to meet with a contact at the Hay Adams Hotel to explain his (Mendoza's) needs for supplies and equipment. Contact was made but no further negotiations in Miami as had been planned. Mendoza believes the contact was CIA.

Mendoza issues a statement in Diario Las Americas on August 2, 1961 that he is the new coordinator, replacing Manolo Ray. Cisneros vacillating between Ray and Mendoza.

4. #105-93163-428, Section 6
November 29, 1961
Memo to W. C. Sullivan from S. B. Donahoe
Subject: Cuban Refugee Problem in the U. S.

In an interview in May 1961, Cisneros advised he was formerly a Castro supporter and head of 26th of July Movement in Camaguey, Cuba. Considered Che Guevara a communist so terminated his association with the Movement in 1958. Made chief of MRP underground in Cuba.

5. #105-114543-50
December 31, 1963
Report of Francis J. O'Brien, New York City
Title: JURE

Informant advised that Richard Steward Coulson (PH) volunteered to assist JURE and that he represented an individual who owned an estate in Jamacia who was willing to make it available to JURE. Manuel Ray in New York to obtain C-4 explosives and spoke to Robin Moore of Concord, Mass., owner of property near Port Antonio, Jamacia. Informant says Moore is a typical son of a wealthy man -- immature and in search of adventure. (Note: #109-584, Sec. 5, Serials 3011-3070 - Memo dated 1/9/62, identifies Moore as the son of former Chairman of the Board of Sheraton Hotels.)

Informant told on November 21, 1963 that JURE planning to have a meeting in Caracas, Venezuela. Raul Chibas to leave Miami for Caracas on 11/21/63. Also to attend would be Jose San Martin, Manuel Ray, Jose Gomez Rodriguez and Regelio Cisneros.

6. #109-584, Section 66, Serials 4001-4069
September 25, 1964
Report from Miami - Robert J. Dwyer
Re: Anti-Fidel Castro Activities

After Manuel Ray's unsuccessful attempt to infiltrate Cuba in May 1964, Cisneros resigned as head of JURE.

7. #105-114543, Section 2, Serials 47-97
Serial #80
February 28, 1964
Report of Francis J. O'Brien, New York
Subject: JURE

Page 3 - Informant advised on 12/23/63 that Cisneros had been in Puerto Rico where it was decided twelve men should be moved who had previously been kept in Miami by Carlos Zarraga. Rumor is that the men are well-trained in infiltration and guerilla fighting. Also felt Regilio Cisneros would be in charge of any group trained in use of explosives. Ray had been in New York attempting to purchase explosives.

8. #105-114543, Section 1, Serials 1-46
Serial #7
December 11, 1962
Report from San Juan

Cisneros states at a November 1962 JURE meeting in Puerto Rico that the organization needs \$20,000 to purchase three boats to conduct acts of sabotage against Cuba. Manpower to run the boats already selected. Cisneros to enlist help of Rene Scull in Venezuela to raise funds.

9. #2-1865, Serial 18, page 26
July 17, 1964
Report of SA John R. M. Whelan, Tampa
Subject: Weir P. Williams
Luis Clemente Faustino Posada Carriles
Campo De Insurrugencia Jose Marti

On June 23, 1964, Luis Posada furnished a statement to the FBI in connection with his residence on the property of Weir P. Williams near Polk City, Florida. Posada says after his discharge from the Army at Ft. Benning, Georgia,

in March 1964, he was recruited into JURE by Rogelio Cisneros. Posada approached Williams who agreed to let Posada establish a training camp on his property, which he did about January 1964. Had a training course for guerilla warfare and trained three groups of 8 men each. (Note: Arttime complained to CIA case officer about this activity).

10. #109-584, Section 35, Serials 1951-2041
October 8, 1960
Department of State Memo from Havana to Sec. of State
#1650

Escape of prisoners from El Morro has been a long-standing project of Cisneros. Successful attempt on October 8 - no identification of escapees, but were imprisoned for counter-revolutionary crimes and were Hubert Matos officers. Escape engineered with cooperation of navy custodial group. Embassy believes escape of this group represents important psychological setback to government of Cuba in terms of cadre which got away and demonstration it cannot trust men within its own ranks who allowed them to leave.